

Expository Writing Rubric

	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Organization/Progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organizing structure of the essay is either inappropriate or not evident. If a structure is evident, it may reflect the writer's confusion about the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The writer may present ideas in a random or illogical way, causing the essay to lack clarity and direction. Most ideas are generally related to the topic, but the thesis statement may be missing, unclear, or illogical. Because the essay lacks a clear thesis, the writer may include extraneous information or shift abruptly from idea to idea, weakening the focus and coherence of the essay. The writer's progression of ideas is weak. Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes disruptions in the essay. At other times the lack of meaningful transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections makes one or more parts of the essay unclear or illogical. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organizing structure of the essay is evident but may not always be appropriate to the stated purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The organizational strategy or strategies the writer uses contribute only marginally to the clarity and quality of the explanation. Most ideas are generally related to the topic, but the thesis statement may be weak or somewhat unclear. The lack of a clear, effective thesis or the writer's inclusion of irrelevant information may interfere with the focus and coherence of the essay. The writer's progression of ideas is inconsistent. Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the essay. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to clearly show the relationships among ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organizing structure of the essay is appropriate to the stated purpose and is, for the most part, responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The organization strategy or strategies the writer chooses, contribute, for the most part, to the clarity and quality of the essay. Most ideas are related to a clear thesis statement and are focused on the topic. The writer is able to develop an essay that is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to minor lapses in focus. The writer's progression of ideas is generally controlled. For the most part, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are logical through most parts of the essay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organizing structure of the essay is appropriate to the stated purpose and is responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The organizational strategy or strategies the writer chooses enhance the clarity and quality of the essay. All ideas are clearly related to the thesis statement and are focused on the topic. Through this sustained focus, the writer is able to develop an essay that is unified and coherent. The writer's progression of ideas is coherent and well controlled. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections clearly show the relationships among ideas throughout the essay.
Development of Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writer's development of ideas is weak because the details and examples are inappropriate, vague, or insufficient. The essay is thin and insubstantial. The writer's approach to the prompt may be vague or confused, demonstrating a lack of understanding of the expository writing task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of ideas is minimal and remains at a surface level because the details and examples are somewhat inappropriate or are too briefly or generally presented. The essay reflects little or no depth of thought. The writer's approach to the prompt is sometimes formulaic and demonstrates only a limited understanding of the expository writing task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of ideas is sufficient because the details and examples are specific and appropriate, adding some substance to the essay. The essay reflects some depth of thought. The writer's approach to the topic is original rather than formulaic and demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of ideas is effective because the details and examples are specific and well chosen, adding substance to the essay. The essay is thoughtful and engaging. The writer may approach the topic from an unusual perspective, may use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing, or may connect ideas in interesting ways. The writer demonstrates a deep understanding of the expository writing task.
Use of Language/Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writer's word choice may be general and imprecise or unsuitable for the purpose. For these reasons the word choice may impede the clarity of the essay. Sentences may be simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay. The writer has little or no command of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and sentence boundaries. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writer's word choice may be basic or simplistic. It reflects a limited awareness of purpose and does little to establish an appropriate tone. For these reasons the word choice may not contribute to the clarity of the essay. Sentences may be awkward or somewhat uncontrolled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay. The writer demonstrates a partial command of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and sentence boundaries. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writer's word choice is, for the most part, effective. It reflects a general awareness of purpose and establishes an appropriate tone. For these reasons word choice usually contributes to the clarity of the essay. Sentences are varied and generally controlled, contributing for the most part to the effectiveness of the essay. The writer demonstrates a general command of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and sentence boundaries. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the essay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writer's word choice is very effective. It reflects a keen awareness of purpose and establishes an appropriate tone. For these reasons word choice strongly contributes to the clarity of the essay. Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, enhancing the effectiveness of the essay. The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the rhetorical effectiveness of the essay. The writer demonstrates a consistent command of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and sentence boundaries. Although minor errors may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the essay.